taken in consequence of a pipe laid without leave by the Metropolitan Sewage Manure Company into the Counters Creek sewer.—Mr. Byng moved that the engineer of the company be summoned to appear before the General Purposes Committee.

Lord Morpeth thought it would be desirable that they should see the officers of the Sewage Company, that the General Purposes Committee should take the whole matter into consideration, and report the result to a future court. He therefore moved a resolution to that effect.—The resolution was seconded by Mr. Broderip, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Byng then moved the following resolution:—"That the engineer of the Metropolitan Sewage Manure Company be summoned to appear before the General Purposes Committee on Thursday next, to show cause why he should not be fined for what has been done, and that the Committee should report to the court what steps they may recommend in this matter."—The resolution was carried.

The Ordnance Survey of the City of London.—Mr. Chadwick said, as satisfactory arrangements had been entered into with the city authorities, who were willing to contribute their quota of the expense of the map of their jurisdiction, he begged to move the following resolution:—"That the City Commissioners of Sewers be invited to name one person who may sit on the Survey Committee on all questions where the survey of the city jurisdiction may be in question, and who may be the channel of communication of general information in relation to the progress of the work."—Carried.

A communication was received from the Board of Health of St. James's parish, Westminster, calling for an efficient drainage.—Mr. Byng said the drainage of this parish was really frightful.

State of the Drainage of Kent and Surrey.—At the request of a commissioner, the clerk read the following extract from the report of the assistant-surveyor, Mr. Lovick, on the state of the drainage of the Kent and Surrey district:—

"At the junction of the Friar-street and the Blackfriars-road sewer the effluvium was exceedingly strong; it was of a peculiar odour, exactly at times like that produced by the decomposition of eggs, strongly impregnated with coal-gas.

"Every part of the exposed surface of the sewer was covered with a white efflorescence: the water in the sewer was covered with air-bubbles; it appeared in some places actually to boil; there was a continual hissing produced by the generation of these bubbles. The sewer was filled to an average depth of two feet two inches with very foul, black, stinking water.

"When we had proceeded to the man-hole, about forty feet from the side entrance opposite No. 12, the safety-lamp with which we were provided went out, the air was so foul as to be incapable of supporting the combustion. We were deterred from again lighting it, as had we made the attempt an explosion must inevitably have occurred. At this point, myself, the superintendent of the flushers, and the man who accompanied us, were seized with a fainting sensation; the superintendent became alarmed, attempted to rush back, and fell, fainting, in the water, at this place upwards of 2 feet in depth. It was some minutes before we recovered him, as we were in total darkness, and ourselves affected by the foul gas. All the silver and copper money, our watches, and almost every article of metal that we had about us, were coated with a peculiar dark, livid tint. The Friar-street sewer is of modern construction; it was built by order of the late Commission of Sewers, in the latter part of last year. It has upright sides and curved inverts. Its invert is some inches below the outlet into the Blackfriars'-road, the connection appearing never to have been perfected; the side of that sewer is left to a height of 1 foot 10 inches,—thus damming up the water in the Friar-street sewer, which immediately behind this barrier is 2 feet 1 inch in depth; at about 3 feet distance it rises 3 inches, making the depth of water at this point 1 foot 10 inches. At about 20 feet distance it again sinks 4 inches—making its depth at this point 2 feet 2 inches. Proceeding towards the head, the fall appears to tend reversely throughout its whole extent, the sewer appearing to be half-filled with dead and stagnant water. It is a vast elongated cesspool, and appears to be a continual generator of the most deadly gases. It is to be apprehended that the introduction of flame may be attended with the most disastrous effects; by the slightest accident this may occur."

Mr. Chadwick said this was an example of the kind of sewers frequently met with, which emitted the foulest odours. This sewer, too, was only built at the end of last year, by order of the late commissioners,—which the present commissioners, without the powers of a new Act of Parliament, could not remedy, and therefore it was highly desirable that their new bill should be passed into a law. He thought, however, it would be impossible to do what was required for the sanitary condition of the people until the subterranean survey was completed.

The court was then adjourned, for the Tower Hamlets, to the 24th inst.,—the other districts to the 31st.

TRIAL OF THE COMPRESSED AIR LOCOMOTIVE ON A COMMON ROAD.—Baron Von Rathen's invention at the College of Civil Engineers, Putney, recently travelled, it is said, from Putney to Wandsworth, at the rate of eight miles an hour, but there unfortunately burst its wind-pipe from too high pressure. The Baron literally compresses his air into bottles prepared for the purpose. The experiment in question is by no means regarded as a failure by the more sanguine advocates of the Baron's system.

Miscellanea.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 4th September, for the erection of the new Municipal Hall, Chesterfield; by 22nd August, for the erection of Wesleyan Schools at Brockmoor Kingswinford; by 6th September, for the construction of 2¼ miles and 3¼ miles of the Vale of Neath Railway, and for sinking shafts and driving headings on same (separate tenders); by 21st August, for relaying the permanent way of the Blackwall line, and for altering the gauge of same; by 31st, for the execution of the remaining portions of the Ashford and Hastings, and Tonbridge Wells and Hastings lines, between Rye, Robertsbridge, and Hastings; by 30th, for the construction of a road, 1,200 feet long and 30 feet wide, near Norwood Cemetery; by 20th, for laying about 1,470 feet of 15-inch tubular earthenware glazed pipes at Oxford; by 7th September, for constructing 1,445 feet of sewer in the Holloway-road, and 1,880 feet in the Seven Sisters'-road; and by the 24th, for surveying, mapping, and valuing the parish of Tutbury.

COLOGNE CATHEDRAL.—A correspondent of the *Athenæum* says,—"Workmen swarm like ants inside and outside the building. The stroke of the mallet and trowel, which has sounded for the last few years like the reanimated pulse of the building, is quickened to a feverish speed; and Zwirner, the architect, allows himself so little rest either to body or mind, that his pulse must be pretty much in the same condition. Yet, with all this activity, there remains so much to be done, and so little time to do it in, that to a mere looker-on the work seems more than human hands can accomplish. It is not only that the temporary roof has to be finished above and the pavement laid below, but the light of heaven still pours in on each side through a wide gap between wall and roof; and the greater part of the grand north and south transept windows—especially of the latter—with all their splendid tracery, still lie scattered in the workshops. The King of Bavaria's new painted windows—which were received here the other day with the roar of cannon and strewing of the streets,—are only half-way up; and even when all these essentials shall have been completed, the clearing away of the accumulations of materials and rubbish inside and out, will be itself a herculean task." The writer continues,—The chief subjects of the three whole windows are, "The Adoration of the Three Kings," "The Entombment," and "The Ascension." The Munich glass painters have every gradation of the palette, from the three primary colours to the most tender neutral tints, completely at their disposal. Their yellows especially shew their superiority—we have nothing better than a dirty orange at Westminster. All are of the highest beauty of conception and colour. "The King of Bavaria may well boast that his Munich glass painters are the first in the world. I doubt whether, as artists in any line, the Munich school ever appeared to greater advantage than it does here. The artists chiefly concerned in these windows have been Professor Hess and Herr Ainmüller."

IS A PERPETUAL MOTION AT LAST DISCOVERED?—An intelligent friend, in whom we have confidence, writes to us gravely from Lille, to state that a mechanic there, after thirteen years' effort, has positively obtained *the means of perpetual motion*. Parties have formed themselves into a company to bring the discovery before the public, and on Tuesday in last week a meeting of these, including some engineers connected with mines, was held to witness the machine in operation, and the only objection made, according to our informant was, that it was not applicable to navigation; but this the inventor denies, maintaining its applicability to all purposes. The present machine is of wood, but it is decided to make one of iron. We need scarcely say, that we are not believers in perpetual motion, having the word *friction* floating in our mind, and we have often cautioned correspondents against being led into so dangerous and deceitful a chase; but in this case the circumstances are put before us by so careful a mind, that we are bound to wait rather than to scoff. A belief prevails there that the British Government some time since offered an enormous premium for the discovery of this power, but we are disposed, after inquiry, to consider this belief erroneous.

COMPETITION.—Plans and a specification are wanted for a new Union Workhouse, at Oldham, for 600 inmates, at a cost not exceeding 10,000*l.*, including architect's commission. Plans previously sent in may be sent in again for consideration, with certificate, &c.

THE FIRE-ANNIHILATOR.—A trial of the fire-annihilator and fire-escape, described by us recently, took place in the presence of Sir George Grey, her Majesty's Secretary for the Home Department, at the London Gas-works, Vauxhall, on Tuesday (15th inst.). Besides Sir George, who was accompanied by Lady Grey, were present the Speaker of the House of Commons, Lord and Lady Wharncliffe, and other influential persons. Lord Dudley Coutts Stuart explained the objects of the inventions, and the humane purposes to which they are applicable. A correspondent who was present says,—"The action and evolutions of the fire-escape were new to many of the company, and the quickness with which the men mounted and descended, some even head foremost, and four or five in the most hurried manner, was sufficient to convince all present of the care and ingenuity of its contrivance, which have saved sixty lives, and cannot, so long as the machine is unimpaired, admit of an accident. But the power of the annihilator, its instantaneous extinction of a body of flame from a pool of blazing pitch, 7 feet in diameter, and the smothering of a large and fierce fire of tar barrels in less than a minute, excited the greatest amazement."

THE MEN OF THE OLDEN TIME.—The Egyptian antiquities rebuke us sufficiently in showing us that at that time men were living very much as we do:—without some knowledge that we have gained, but in possession of some arts which we have not. They confound us by their mute exhibitions of their iron tools and steel armour; their great range of manufactures, and their feasts and sports, so like our own. In their kitchens they decanted wine by a syphon, and strewed their cakes with seeds, and pounded their spices in a mortar. In the drawing-room, they lounged on *chaises-longues*; and the ladies knitted and netted as we do, and darned better than we can. In the nursery the girls had dolls; jointed dolls, with bunchy hair and long eyes; and the boys had little wooden crocodiles with snapping jaws. In the country we see the agriculturists taking stock; and in the towns the population divided into castes, subject to laws, and living under a theocracy, long before the supposed time of the Deluge. There is enough here to teach us some humility and patience about the true history of the world.—*Miss Martineau's Eastern Life.*

PEAT CHARCOAL.—A scheme, in aid of Irish interests, but unconnected, it is said, with Irish landlords, has been set on foot for the employment of the Irish peasantry in the manufacture of peat charcoal, for smelting purposes, and for the incidental reclamation of bog lands; the surplus profits to be expended in improving the social condition of the people. Large tracts of land, it is said, have been taken in Mayo and Roscommon for the purpose, and a meeting for the establishment of this Irish Amelioration Society was held in the Hanover-square Rooms, on Wednesday week, at which Mr. Jaspar Rogers developed the scheme.

THE VERNON COLLECTION.—We mentioned a fortnight ago, that the trustees of the National Gallery had determined on clearing out the lower rooms of their building, and hanging Mr. Vernon's fine collection there; and so they had; at least so one of the trustees themselves told us. But it seems they had determined too quickly, for when professional parties were directed to examine these rooms and report on their fitness, the report was so decidedly unfavourable, that the idea, as we understand, has been abandoned, and matters remain in the same unsatisfactory state as before. We are sorry to hear that "the honour of *knighthood*" has been offered to Mr. Vernon in return for his munificent gift and noble example: it was of course declined.

PEDESTRIANISM IN THE BRICKYARD.—A Gloucester paper says: There is a lad in a brickyard who walks, or rather runs, over a space of ground equal to sixty miles daily. Nor is the space travelled by any means the most arduous portion of his task; for he has to

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